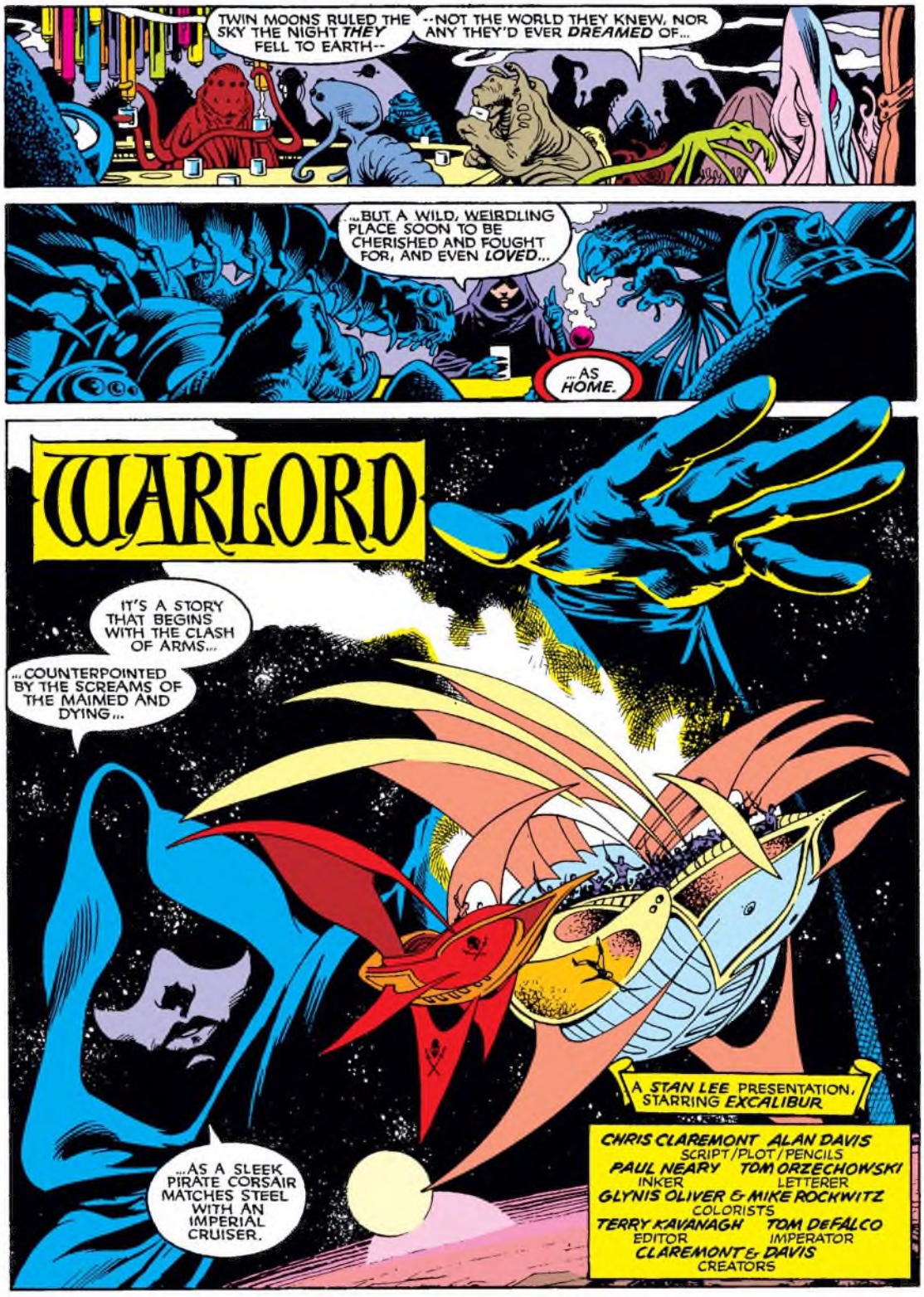
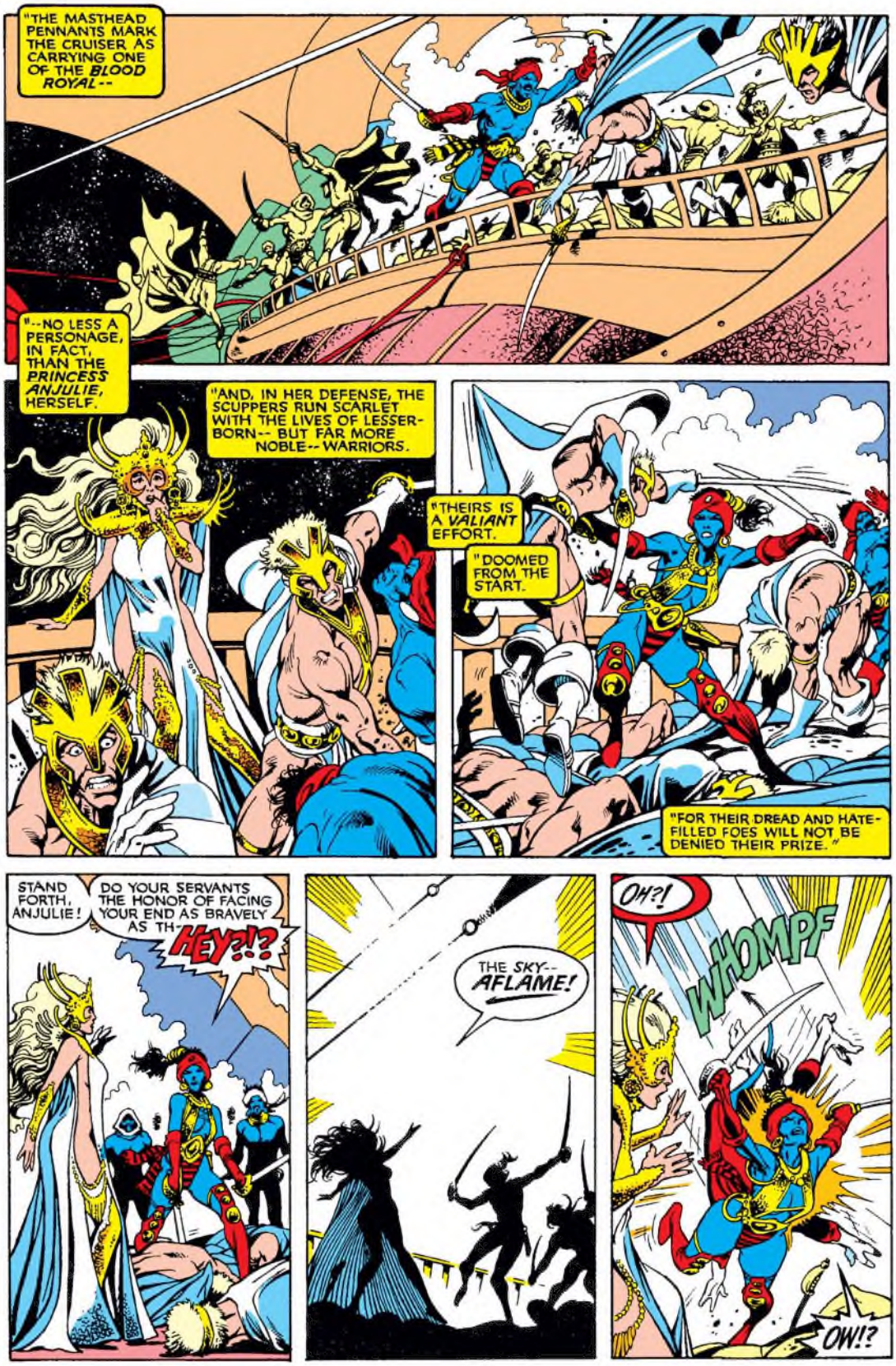
MARVEL
© 1989 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.
TM
$1.50 US
$2.00 CAN
16
DEC
02711
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY
THE CROSS-TIME CAPER
EXCALIBUR
KURT WAGNER'S WARLORD OF ?
ALAN DAVIS & WEBBY

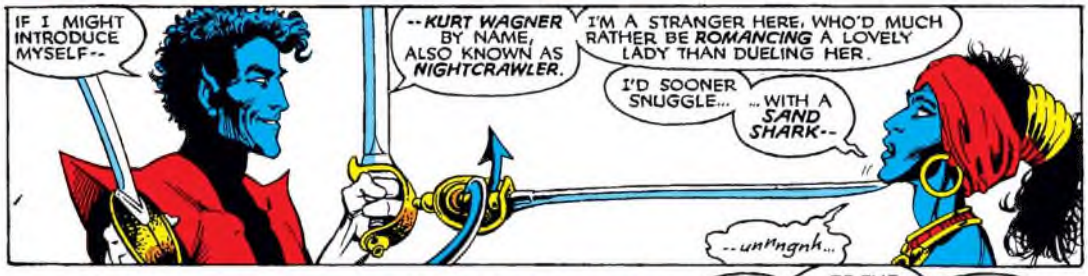

TWIN MOONS RULED THE SKY THE NIGHT THEY FELL TO EARTH--
--NOT THE WORLD THEY KNEW, NOR ANY THEY'D EVER DREAMED OF...
...BUT A WILD, WEIRDLING PLACE SOON TO BE CHERISHED AND FOUGHT FOR, AND EVEN LOVED...
...AS HOME.
WARLORD
IT'S A STORY THAT BEGINS WITH THE CLASH OF ARMS...
...COUNTERPOINTED BY THE SCREAMS OF THE MAIMED AND DYING...
...AS A SLEEK PIRATE CORSAIR MATCHES STEEL WITH AN IMPERIAL CRUISER.
A STAN LEE PRESENTATION, STARRING EXCALIBUR
CHRIS CLAREMONT ALAN DAVIS
SCRIPT/PLOT/PENCILS
PAUL NEARY TOM ORZECHOWSKI
INKER LETTERER
GLYNIS OLIVER & MIKE ROCKWITZ
COLORISTS
TERRY KAVANAGH TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR IMPERATOR
CLAREMONT & DAVIS
CREATORS


"THE MASTHEAD PENNANTS MARK THE CRUISER AS CARRYING ONE OF THE BLOOD ROYAL--
"--NO LESS A PERSONAGE, IN FACT, THAN THE PRINCESS ANJULIE, HERSELF.
"AND, IN HER DEFENSE, THE SCUPPERS RUN SCARLET WITH THE LIVES OF LESSER-BORN-- BUT FAR MORE NOBLE-- WARRIORS.
"THEIRS IS A VALIANT EFFORT.
"DOOMED FROM THE START.
"FOR THEIR DREAD AND HATE-FILLED FOES WILL NOT BE DENIED THEIR PRIZE."
STAND FORTH, ANJULIE!
DO YOUR SERVANTS THE HONOR OF FACING YOUR END AS BRAVELY AS TH-
HEY?!?
THE SKY-- AFLAME!
OH?!
WHOMPF
OW!?

PLEASE, SIR, I BEG YOU--
OH
I SAY!
OW
WHAT A TUMBLE!
OH
DREADFULLY SORRY
OW
HOPE I HAVEN'T...
OH
...CAUSED ANY INCONVENIENCE.
--SAVE ME!
Oh DEAR oh DEAR!
KYMRI'S DOWN!
AT 'IM, MATES!
LET'S DO FOR THE SWINE WHAT DROPPED OUR CAP'N!
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
I ASSURE YOU, I HAD NO INTENTION--!
GENTLEMEN, CAN'T WE DISCUSS THIS--?!
ALL RIGHT, THEN--
--HAVE IT YOUR WAY.
"AND PRESENTLY..."
NOW, THAT'S WHAT I CALL...
... A WORKOUT.
YOU-- CUR!

YOU'VE NOT WON THE DAY, PALADIN...
... TILL YOU'VE BESTED ME!

IF YOU INSIST.


IF I MIGHT INTRODUCE MYSELF--
--KURT WAGNER BY NAME, ALSO KNOWN AS NIGHTCRAWLER.
I'M A STRANGER HERE, WHO'D MUCH RATHER BE ROMANCING A LOVELY LADY THAN DUELING HER.
I'D SOONER SNUGGLE...
... WITH A SAND SHARK--
--unmngnh...

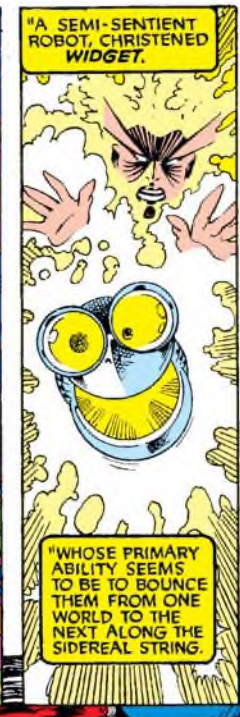
FRAULEIN, WHAT'S WRONG?!
SHE MUST STILL BE SHAKY FROM MY LANDING ON HER!
YOU FOOL!

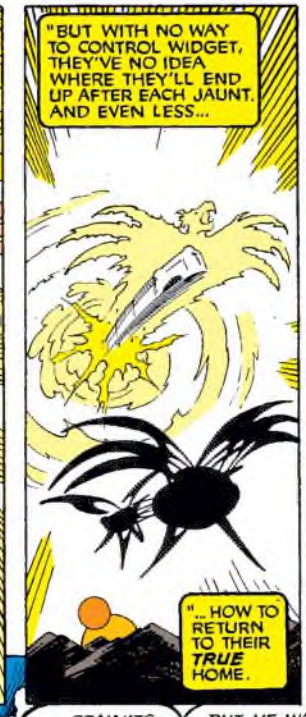
BONK
D'YOU KNOW... WHAT IT IS... YOU'VE DONE...
TELL ME, THEN--
OHWHW!

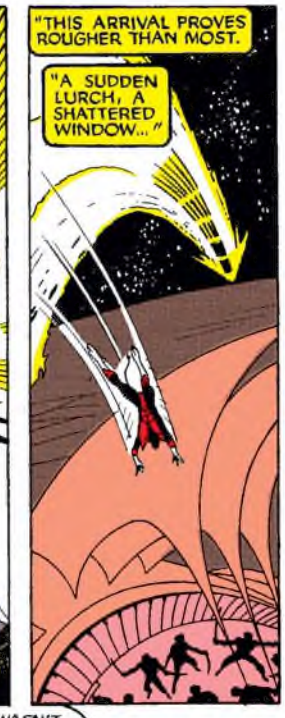
MERELY HELPED RID ME...
... OF THE ONE PERSON IN ALL THE WORLD...
... I TRULY FEARED.
AND SO, ONCE AGAIN, A HERO IS FELLED...
... BY A TWISTED, TREACHEROUS SOUL...
... MASKED BY THE PRETTIEST OF FACES.
BUT WHO IS THIS "NIGHTCRAWLER," AND WHERE DID HE COME FROM?

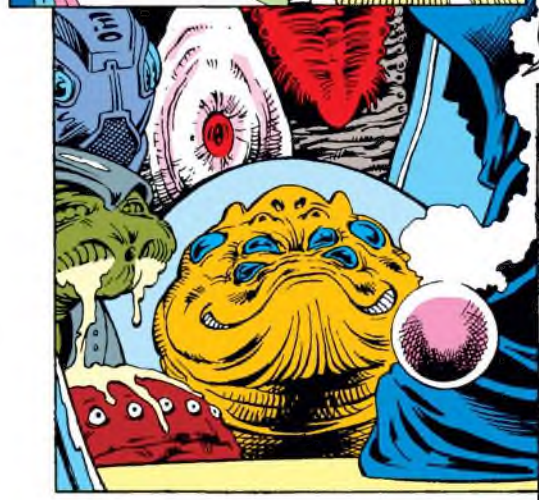
IMAGINE, FOR EVERY WORLD YOU KNOW, THERE EXISTS AN INFINITE NUMBER OF COUNTERPARTS. ALTERNATE DIMENSIONS -- ALL THE PEOPLE AND PLACES THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN, HAD CREATION CRAFTED JUST A FRACTION DIFFERENTLY.
FROM ONE SUCH EARTH, CAME THIS BAND OF ADVENTURERS, EXCALIBUR.
CAPTAIN BRITAIN.
NIGHT-CRAWLER.
MEGGAN.
PHOENIX.
THEIR FRIEND, ALISTAIRE STUART.
LOCK-HEED.
SHADOW-CAT.

"AND, LASTLY, THE CHARACTER RESPON-SIBLE FOR CASTING THEM, AND THEIR TRAIN...
"...INTO THIS CROSSTIME STREAM.

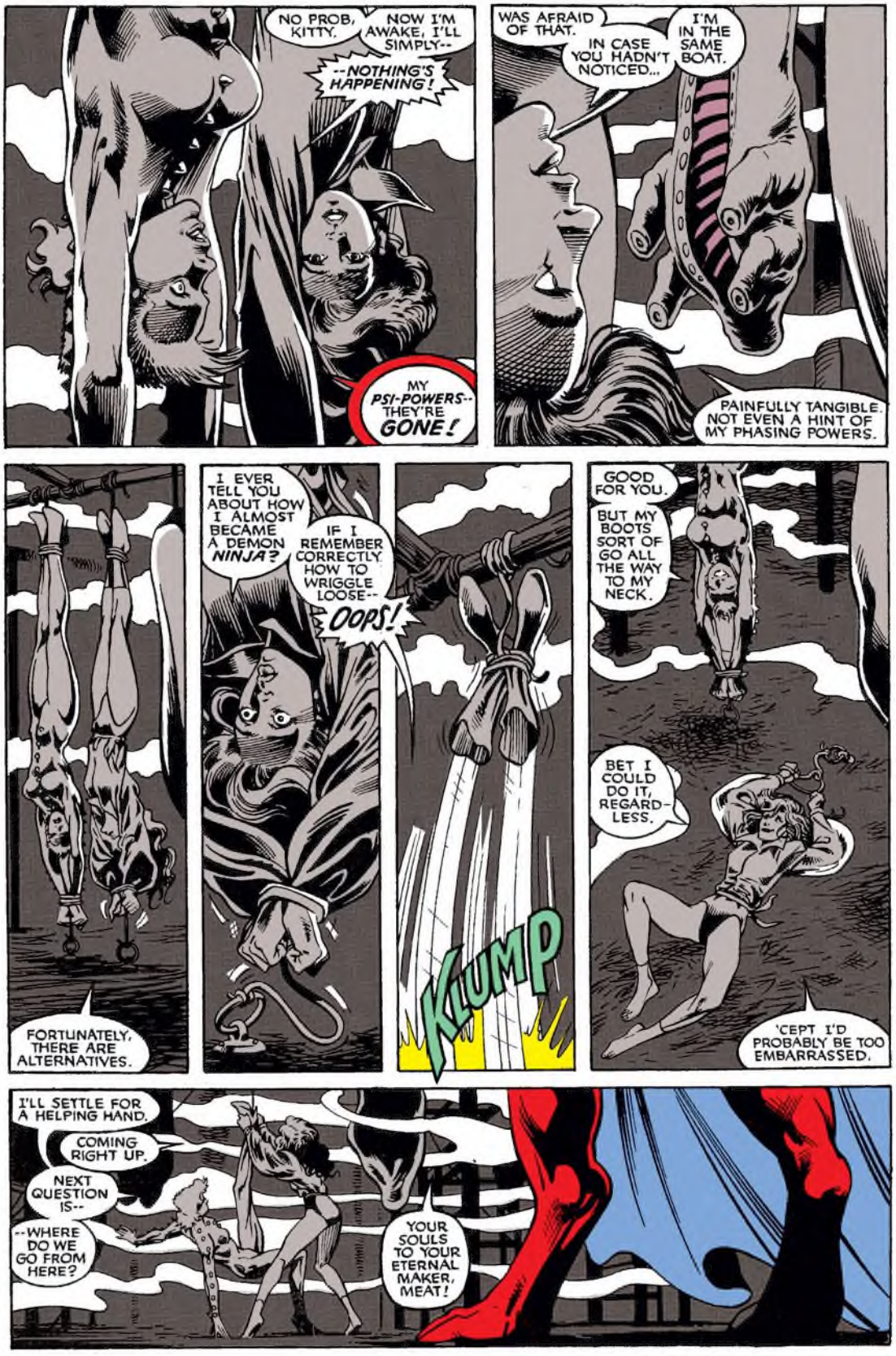

"A SEMI-SENTIENT ROBOT, CHRISTENED WIDGET.
"WHOSE PRIMARY ABILITY SEEMS TO BE TO BOUNCE THEM FROM ONE WORLD TO THE NEXT ALONG THE SIDEREAL STRING.


"BUT WITH NO WAY TO CONTROL WIDGET, THEY'VE NO IDEA WHERE THEY'LL END UP AFTER EACH JAUNT. AND EVEN LESS...
"... HOW TO RETURN TO THEIR TRUE HOME.

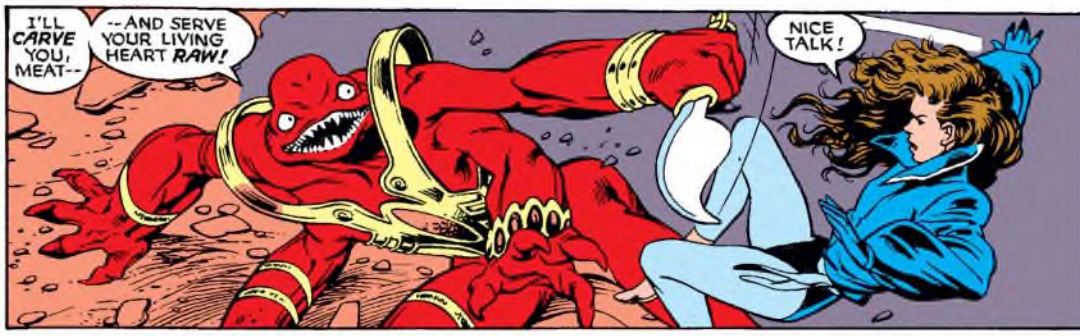

"THIS ARRIVAL PROVES ROUGHER THAN MOST.
"A SUDDEN LURCH, A SHATTERED WINDOW..."



...COMMITS NIGHTCRAWLER TO HIS FATE.
BUT HE WASN'T THE ONLY ONE SO CAST ADRIFT...
Phweee-YEW!
WHAT IS THAT SMELL?!
US, I'M AFRAID.
WE'RE IN A SMOKEHOUSE, RAY.
FOR THE OBVIOUS REASON.


NO PROB, KITTY.
NOW I'M AWAKE, I'LL SIMPLY--
--NOTHING'S HAPPENING!
MY PSI-POWERS-- THEY'RE GONE!
WAS AFRAID OF THAT.
IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED...
I'M IN THE SAME BOAT.
PAINFULLY TANGIBLE. NOT EVEN A HINT OF MY PHASING POWERS.
FORTUNATELY, THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES.
I EVER TELL YOU ABOUT HOW I ALMOST BECAME A DEMON NINJA?
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY. HOW TO WRIGGLE LOOSE--
OOPS!
KLUMP
GOOD FOR YOU.
BUT MY BOOTS SORT OF GO ALL THE WAY TO MY NECK.
BET I COULD DO IT, REGARD-LESS.
'CEPT I'D PROBABLY BE TOO EMBARRASSED.
I'LL SETTLE FOR A HELPING HAND.
COMING RIGHT UP.
NEXT QUESTION IS--
--WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
YOUR SOULS TO YOUR ETERNAL MAKER, MEAT!

BUT YOUR FLESH--
--STRAIGHT INTO MY STEWPOT!
Awh, CRUMBS-- THE COOK!
STAY BACK, KITTY!
LET ME HANDLE THIS!
RAY, WAIT! DON'T FORGET--
--YOU HAVEN'T ANY SUPER-POWERS!
KWAMM
Ohhhh-KAY-- HERE'S THE ACID TEST--
...TO SEE IF ALL THOSE SPARRING SESSIONS WITH WOLVERINE--
--DID ANY GOOD.
WHADDYAKNOW--
SKRASH
--BIG GUYS REALLY DO FALL HARDER!
Oh-- TERRIFIC!


I'LL CARVE YOU, MEAT--
--AND SERVE YOUR LIVING HEART RAW!
NICE TALK!

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND...
COUNTER HIS SIZE WITH SPEED.
TAK

... IF I HAVE...
SEE WHERE HE'S MOST VULNERABLE.
CHUG

...OTHER IDEAS.
THEN HIT HIM WITH ALL YOU'VE GOT.
WHEEZL

WORKS FOR WOLVIE.
WORKS FOR ME.
FWUMP

NICE MOVES, KIDDO.

GOT ANY MORE?

IN THE MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE, NIGHTCRAWLER...
NAY!
QUERY: FATE OF ENTITIES, NOMENCLATURE "KITTY" AND "RAY"!
Forbear!
PROTEST! MOST VEHEMENT! I!
WHA' HOPPEN'A GALS?!

"WELL, IF YOU INSIST...
"TURNS OUT NO ONE PRESENT MUCH LIKED THE COOK.

"BUT THEY WERE MUCH IMPRESSED BY THE FIGHTING PROWESS AND COURAGE SHOWN BY THE TWO GIRLS.
"SO MUCH SO THAT-- IN A CEREMONY AS ANCIENT AS IT WAS SECRET-- BOTH WERE INDUCTED INTO THE DRACIC CONFEDERACY AS WARRIORS.

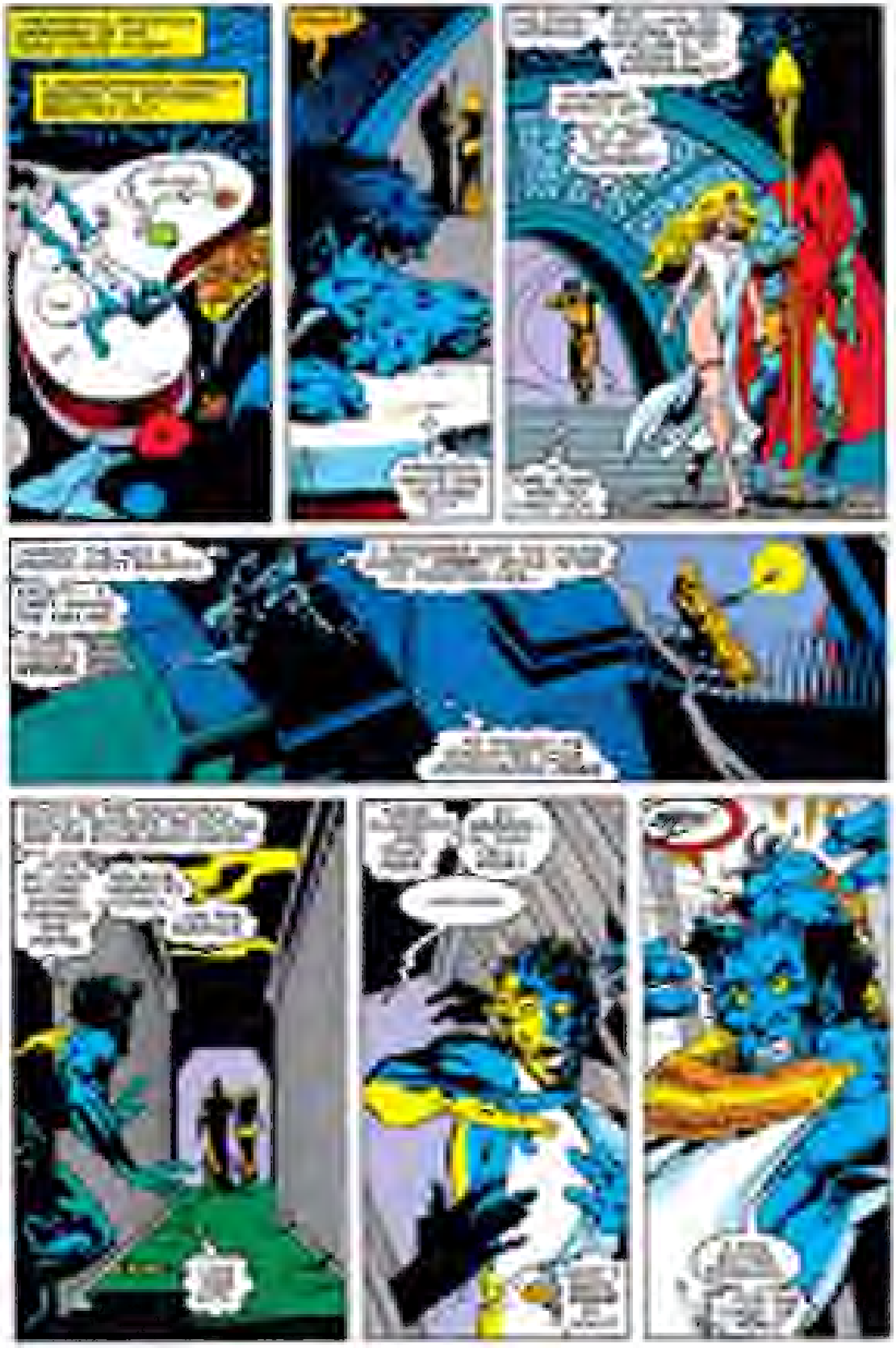
"ARMED AND OUTFITTED ACCORDING TO THEIR NEW STATION..."
RAY-- YOU SURE YOU DON'T FEEL JUST THE TEENIEST DRAFT?
"...AND ACCOMPANIED BY THE FIRST SELECTMAN-- THE DRAGONS BEING A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY-- THEY SET OFF IN SEARCH OF THEIR MISSING COMPANIONS."

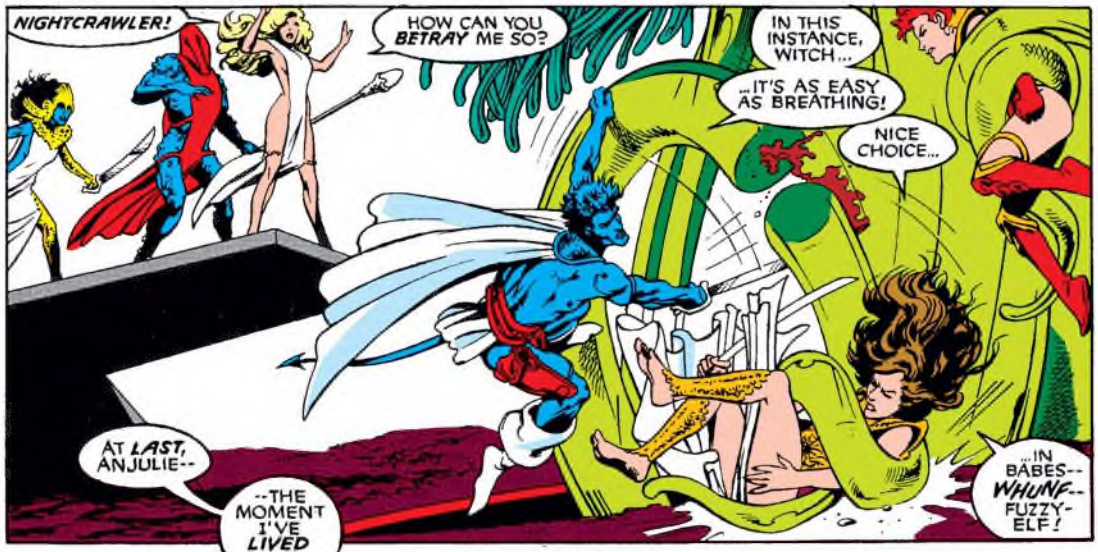
Britain, Captain and Stuart, Alistaire and Meggan, yes?
YES.
BUT WE'LL COME TO THEM LATER.
NOW, IT'S NIGHT-CRAWLER'S TURN

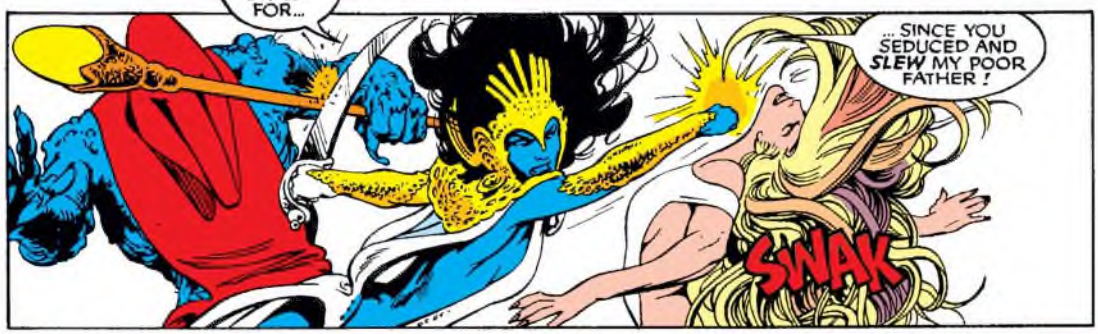
"HIS IS A TALE OUT OF LEGEND..."
WHAT A BUMP!
WISH I COULD REMEMBER...

"...OF FEATS BEYOND IMAGINING."
...WHAT HIT ME?
GREETINGS, PALADIN.
GLAD I AM TO SEE YOU UP AND ABOUT.

KUNK




NIGHTCRAWLER!
HOW CAN YOU BETRAY ME SO?
IN THIS INSTANCE, WITCH...
...IT'S AS EASY AS BREATHING!
NICE CHOICE...
AT LAST, ANJULIE--
--THE MOMENT I'VE LIVED FOR...
...IN BABES-- WHUNF-- FUZZY-ELF!


... SINCE YOU SEDUCED AND SLEW MY POOR FATHER!
SWAK

NONE MAY ASSAULT MY PRINCESS!
SO SAYS EVERY FOOL OF A MAN...

...WHO FALLS BENEATH HER SPELL!
HOW DOES SHE DO IT?
YOUR BLASTER MISSED, WRETCH!
NOT SO, MY SWORD!

FATHER?!
NO oh NO I THOUGHT NO!

HE WOULD HAVE PERISHED SOON, REGARDLESS.
I'D ALREADY CHOSEN NIGHTCRAWLER TO TAKE HIS PLACE.
A PITY YOU WON'T LIVE...

...TO SEE...
...glgkh
THE CREATURE!
Whoops!
NEED A HAND, GUYS!
KITTY!
THE LIGHT BURNS BRIGHT WITHIN YOU, PALESKIN.
I SHALL DRAIN YOU AS I HAVE THIS ORB.
SHE'S GLOWING--
--LIKE THE OTHERS INSIDE!
BUT WHY HER, AND NOT KYMRI?
PERHAPS OUR POWERS? THE FACT WE'RE MUTANTS?
WHO CARES, KURT! LET'S CUT HER LOOSE!
EASIER SAID, RACHEL, THAN DONE.
IF WE ONLY HAD OUR POWERS--!
NO SENSE WISHING FOR WHAT CAN'T BE--
hmmh?!?
I'M NOT GLOWING, AND THE CREATURE'S FLINCHING AWAY FROM PHOENIX. BUT WHY?!
WHAT COMMON DENOMINATOR MAKES THE WORLD'S ESSENCE AND OURS AND THE DRAGONS' SO DESIRABLE--
--YET RACHEL'S SO FEARSOME??

WHAT WAS IT KYMRI TOLD ME?
WITH ANJULIE'S ARRIVAL--AND PRESUMABLY HER MONSTER-MASTER'S AS WELL--ALL THAT WAS "MAGICKAL" SEEMED TO VANISH FROM THE WORLD.
COULD "MAGICK" BE THE LINK?
NO TIME FOR ANYONE'S SECOND OPINION...

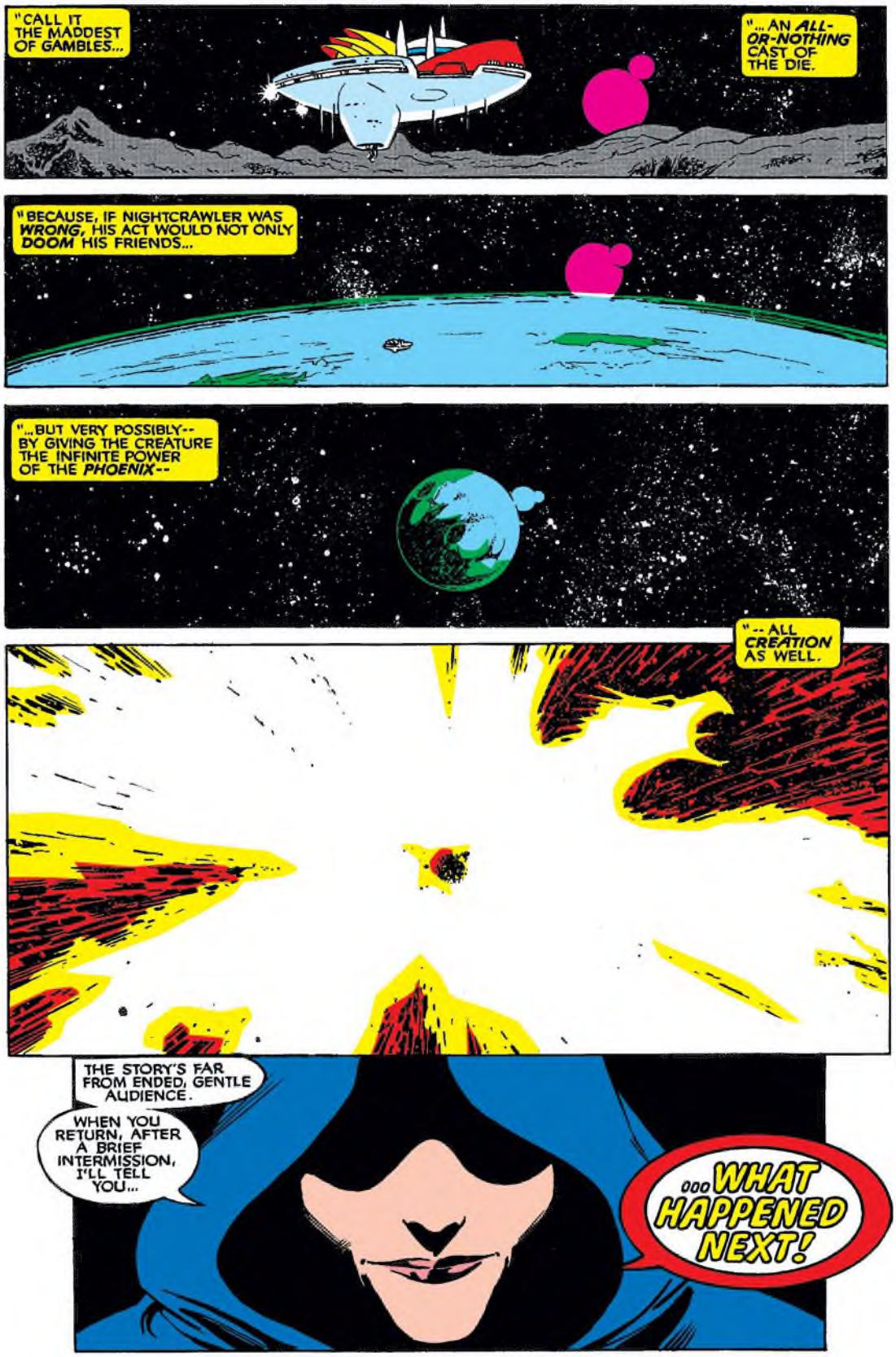
...I'LL HAVE TO TRUST MY INSTINCTS!
NIGHTCRAWLER--ARE YOU NUTS?!!
AND GIVE THIS CREATURE WHAT IT APPEARS MOST AFRAID OF!
WE'RE ALL OF US IN EXCALIBUR--PEOPLE AND DRAGONS--TOUCHED WITH MAGICK, SOME MORE THAN OTHERS. I'LL WAGER THAT'S WHY OUR POWERS WON'T WORK HERE.

THAT LOOK--RACHEL, PLEASE UNDERSTAND.
SOMEHOW THE CREATURE'S INFLUENCE DENIES US DIRECT ACCESS TO THEM. IT CAN STEAL THAT ESSENCE GRADUALLY, AT A DISTANCE, OR DIRECTLY.

BUT THAT'S THE WORLD'S MAGICK.
YOU, RACHEL, AS PHOENIX, HAVE ACCESS TO THE CORE, PRIMAL LIFE-FORCE OF THE ENTIRE COSMOS.

WHICH, HOPEFULLY, IS MORE RAW ENERGY...

...THAN THAT HORROR CAN HANDLE.


"CALL IT THE MADDEST OF GAMBLES...
"... AN ALL-OR-NOTHING CAST OF THE DIE.
"BECAUSE, IF NIGHTCRAWLER WAS WRONG, HIS ACT WOULD NOT ONLY DOOM HIS FRIENDS...
"...BUT VERY POSSIBLY-- BY GIVING THE CREATURE THE INFINITE POWER OF THE PHOENIX--
"-- ALL CREATION AS WELL.
THE STORY'S FAR FROM ENDED, GENTLE AUDIENCE.
WHEN YOU RETURN, AFTER A BRIEF INTERMISSION, I'LL TELL YOU...
...WHAT HAPPENED NEXT!